Telephone facility in Rural and Backward areas in West Bengal

1858. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state what are the steps proposed to be taken to augment telephone facility in rural and backward areas of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): There is a plan to open 80 Long Distance Public Telephones and 12 small capacity exchanges, with equipped capacity of 300 lines, in the rural and backward areas of West Bengal Telecom. Circle, during the current financial year.

Waiting List for Telephones in West Bengal

1859. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the existing waiting list of telephones in West Bengal; and

(b) the time by when the above waiting list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The existing waiting list of telephones in West Bengal is 40,802 as on 31-5-1987.

(b) As per the enhanced 7th Plan of Rs. 6000 crores, the clearance of the waiting list by 1-4-90 is proposed as follows:—

	Clearance of waiting list upto
1. Calcutta Telephone District	30-9-1986
2. Telecom. Circle (West	
MAX-I (2000 lines and above)	1-4-1987
MAX II (200 to 2000 lines)	1-4-1988
MAX-III and Manual Exchanges (upto 200 lines	1-4-1990

The remaining waiting list beyond 30-9-1986 in respect of Calcutta Telephone District and beyond 1-4-1987 in respect of Telecom. Circle, West Bengal, and MAX-I(2000 lines and above) exchanges will be cleared in early years of 8th Plan.

Postal/Communication progress in West Bengal

1860. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the latest progress in the construction of departmental buildings including Telephone Exchange buildings and residential colonies for postal and telecom. employees at the various district and Sub Divisional Headquarters of West Bengal where the projects have been sanctioned, including the construction of Head Post Office buildings;

(b) by when the work would be taken in hand or completed wherever it is in progress for each site; and

(c) what are the reasons for delay in construction, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) *Postal* Information regarding progress in construction of Departmental Buildings/staff quarters for Postal em-